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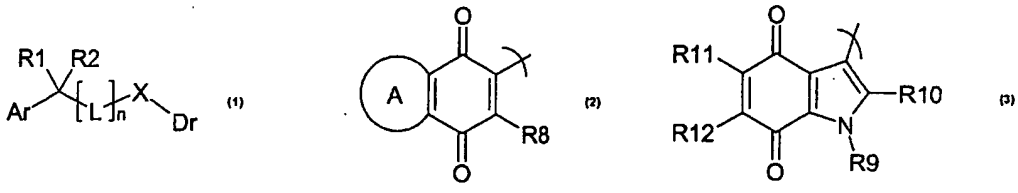
(54) Title: BIOREDUCTIVELY-ACTIVATED PRODRUGS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a compound of formula (1), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein: Ar is a substituted aryl or heteroaryl group bearing at least one nitro or azido group or is a group of formula (2) or (3) wherein R_1, and $_{R2}$, which may be the same or different are independently optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, aryl, COR_3 or, together with the intervening carbon atom, form an optionally substituted heterocycloalkyl or carbocyclic ring ; L is -OC(O)- or -OP(O)(OR_6)-; n is0or1 ;X is 0, S, NR_7 or a single covalent bond; R_3 is OR_4 or NR_4R_5; R_4, R_5, R_6 and R_7 are each independently hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl or, where R_r is NR_4R_5, R_4 and R_5 can be joined to form, together with the intervening nitrogen atom, a heterocycloalkyl ring; R_8 is hydrogen, alkoxy or diatkylaminoalkyl; R_9 is optionally substituted alkyl; Rio is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy or dialkylaminoalkyl; R_{11} and $_{R12}$ are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, thioatkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, morpholino, piperidino,piperazino or l=aziridinyl; A is an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl ring; and Dr is a moiety such that DrXH represents a cytotoxic or cytostatic compound.

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